

Biosolids in COMPOST

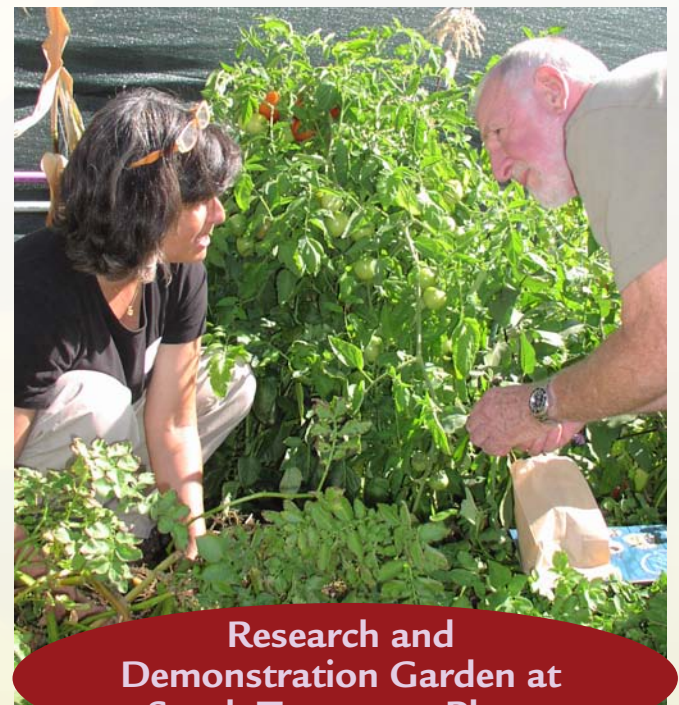
Biosolids are the nutrient-rich organic product of wastewater treatment, which when mixed with sawdust or other materials can be successfully composted for landscaping, gardening and land restoration.

Biosolids composting is a great way to return valuable nutrients to the soil. All essential plant nutrients are found in biosolids. The organic matter in biosolids provides advantages that are not available from chemical fertilizers, such as retaining moisture and improving soil texture.



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division
Resource Recovery



**Research and
Demonstration Garden at
South Treatment Plant**

The research and demonstration garden represents the county's commitment to test the quality and safety of our products to ensure they are a valuable local resource. In 2009, University of Washington researchers used the garden to grow flowers and vegetables with GroCo biosolids compost and reclaimed water. They evaluated plant growth rate and tested vegetables and soils for metals and microbial contamination. All crops were healthy and safe to eat. The successful research was celebrated at a luncheon at the treatment plant.

Adding biosolids compost to soils is not only good fertilizer and soil conditioner, but also shows great promise in sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gases one garden at a time.



Biosolids compost has been produced and marketed by a local company, GroCo, Inc., for more than 25 years. GroCo mixes sawdust and King County biosolids in a 3:1 ratio to make this fine textured compost. The product has a loyal following with commercial landscapers in the wholesale market, and the general public uses GroCo on their lawns and gardens.

Promotes Robust Growth

Nutrient-rich composition yields hearty plant growth

Enhances Microbial Activity

Promotes microbial diversity leading to healthy soil

Reduces Carbon Footprint

Captures/stores carbon in soil and some plants

Retains Moisture

Organic matter holds moisture, protecting plants during drought

Conditions Soil

Aerates soil, promoting a healthy root system



BENEFITS

Biosolids...creating another resource from wastewater

For more information:

206-684-1247

<http://kingcounty.gov/biosolids/>